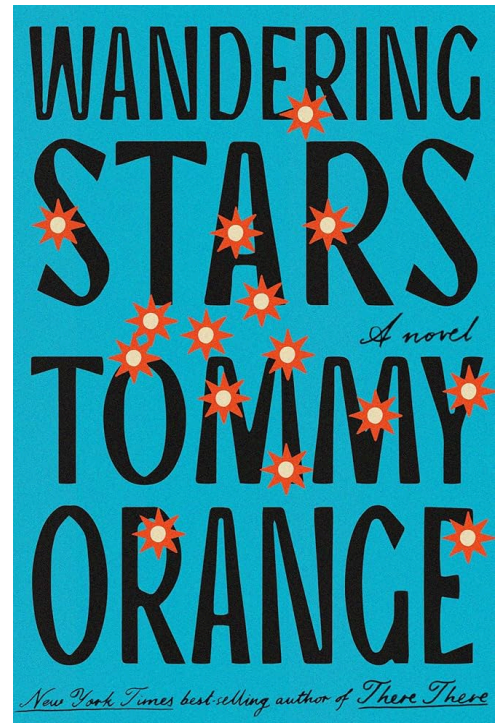


Honors American Studies Summer Assignment

Your summer assignment for Honors American Studies is to read Part One of [Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange](#). This novel follows a victim of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre and his descendants. The Sand Creek Massacre was an unprovoked attack on Cheyenne and Arapaho villages in Colorado by the U.S. Army.

Wandering Stars introduces a major topic of the Unit: how European colonies (and then later the United States) claimed indigenous land in the period from 1607 to 1890. It also introduces questions about historical trauma and memory –and how these shape America today – that will concern us throughout the year.



Please read to pg. 114 and annotate for the questions below.

1. What **symbols** does Orange use throughout Part 1? What do they represent about trauma, memory, and erasure?
2. Orange packs this novel with lots of **historical “crumbs”** (references to real historical people, places, and events) for the curious reader to follow. Keep an eye out for these as you read, put a box around them, and then do a quick Google search to identify them, writing what you find in the margins. You should aim for at least 5.
3. A major focus of this novel is the impact of **intergenerational trauma**. Based on your reading, what do you think this term means? How do Charles Star’s experiences in the 1860s come to bear on the other characters’ lives? What role does cultural erasure play in this trauma? Annotate for possible examples of it.